

REMARKS

Applicants understand that claims 42 through 47 have been withdrawn from further consideration. As these claims depend from a generic claim, however, these claims are entitled to consideration upon allowance of that generic claim.

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, several suggestions were made regarding amending the specification from "27" to --27A--, changing "Fig. 6" to --Fig. 3--, and changing "nozzle 6" to --nozzle 15--. Referring to Fig. 4, discharge port 27 is shown extending from the right side of combination faucet 20. Selecting knob 25 switches between discharge port 27 and discharge port for wash place 28. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to due to a problem in antecedent basis with regards to claims 15 and 17. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 56-64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Official Action indicates that the phrase "a substantially flat spray of water in a substantially vertical plane" was not original disclosure. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Note page 10, bottom line ("a flat spray shape"), page 10, bottom line ("a shower in the form of a fan-shaped thin film"), page 12, line 8 ("the spray pattern of the second spray nozzle is about vertical"), thus, the specification as originally filed makes specific reference to a flat spray of water in a vertical plane. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 7 of the Official Action, claims 15-18 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claim 49 was found to be redundant with claim 40. Claim 49 has been cancelled.

Paragraph 10 of the Official Action rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 40, 41, 49, 50 and 52-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Official Action argues that Yoshida discloses:

... said arms are movable towards and away from each other.

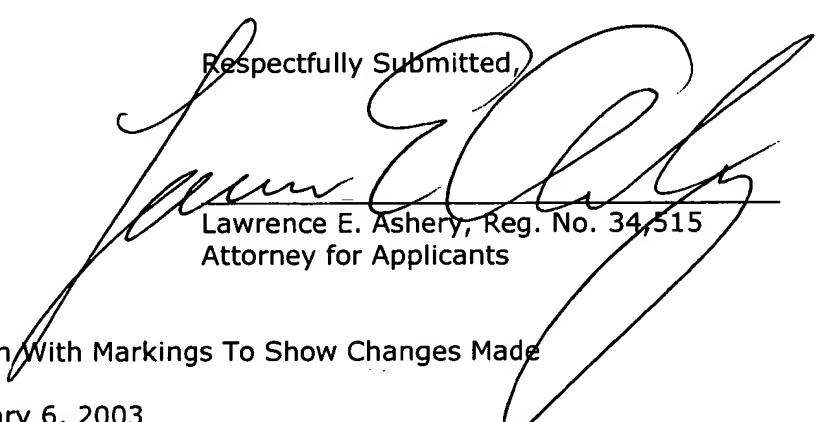
Applicants' representative has reviewed the Yoshida Reference at Figure 31 and at column 18, lines 62-64. Applicants' representative does not see where these arms are movable towards and away from each other. Furthermore, the fact that one arm can pivot without the other arm does not meet the claimed limitation of two arms that are movable towards and away from each other. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 48 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida. This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of that claim.

Claims 56-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida and JP 10-028656. The Official Action acknowledges that Yoshida does not teach the nozzle spray shape. JP 10-028656 shows nozzles in Figures 2 and 7. The inner portion of these nozzles spin. Note pivot point 13 in Figure 2. The water coming out of these nozzles thus assumes a circular shape. Note the phantom lines in Figure 16 which correspond to a circular path of the water. There is nothing flat about this spray. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,


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Enclosures: Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

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February 6, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Specification at page 26, line 7:

The cold water and the hot water supply sides of the combination faucet 20 are connected to the city water pipe (not illustrated) and a hot-water apparatus (end stop type/not illustrated). The combination faucet 20 has a city water flow regulating knob (hereinafter referred to as city water valve knob) 23, a temperature regulating knob 24 and a selecting knob 25. The selecting knob 25 has the function of switching between a ~~hand shower unit discharge port~~ 27 and a discharge port for wash place 28. The switch valve 21 has a switch knob 26 of the hand shower unit 27A. In Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the first wide-angle spray nozzle 8 sprays hot water, to form a first hot water shower curtain 201. Namely, the first wide-angle spray nozzle 8 sprays to the first spray area 201. The second wide-angle spray nozzle 9 sprays hot water, to form a second hot water shower curtain 202. Namely, the second wide-angle spray nozzle 9 sprays to the second spray area 202. The direct-jet spray nozzle 14 sprays hot water, to form a third spray area 203. The slewing spray nozzle 15 sprays hot water, to form a fourth spray area 204. The third wide-angle spray nozzle 16 sprays hot water, to form a fifth spray area 205. The third wide-angle spray nozzle 19 sprays hot water, to form a sixth spray area 206.

Specification at page 27, line 12:

In the first place, set the temperature regulating knob 24 at the shower bathing temperature (approx. 40°C for example). Next, switch the selecting knob 25 of the combination faucet 20 to the ~~hand shower unit discharge port~~ 27 side. Also switch the selecting knob 26 of the selecting valve 21 for the main body 1 of the water shower apparatus to the shower system side. Open the selecting knob 25, and the hot-water apparatus (not illustrated) connected to the combination faucet 20 will start working. Hot water and cold water are mixed from the city water pipes. Hot water at set temperature (approx. 40°C) is supplied, through the piping header 22, the piping of the respective shower systems, etc., the first nozzle arm 10, the second nozzle arm 11, the flexible joint 12 and the nozzle header 13, to the respective first wide-angle spray nozzles 8, the respective second wide-angle spray nozzles 9, the direct-jet spray nozzle 14, the slewing spray nozzle 15 and the third wide-angle spray nozzles 16, 19, and is sprayed according to the spraying characteristics of the respective spray nozzles.

Specification at page 28, line 6:

Namely, the first wide-angle spray nozzles 8 and the second wide-angle spray nozzles 9 spray with a fan-shaped spray pattern in the form of a thin film similar to the third spray area 203 in Fig. 5, to form a hot water shower curtain having a first spray area 201 and a second spray area 202. Moreover, the nozzle header 13 sprays with a spray pattern like that of a hot water shower in the shape of a water gun as the fourth spray area 204 in Fig. 6(c). The second slewing fan-shaped spray nozzle 6-15 (as shown in Fig. 3) sprays with a spray pattern in the shape of a whirl pulsating and swinging in the form of an empty cone like the fifth spray area 205 in Fig. 7. The third wide-angle spray nozzles 16, 19 spray with a wide-angle spray pattern in the shape of a cone like the sixth spray area 206 in Fig. 8.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 15-18, 48 and 49 have been cancelled.